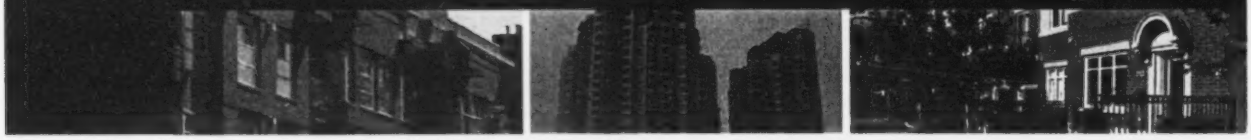
HOUSING MARKET INFORMATION

RENTAL MARKET REPORT

Manitoba Highlights*



Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

Release Date: Fall 2008

Figure 1

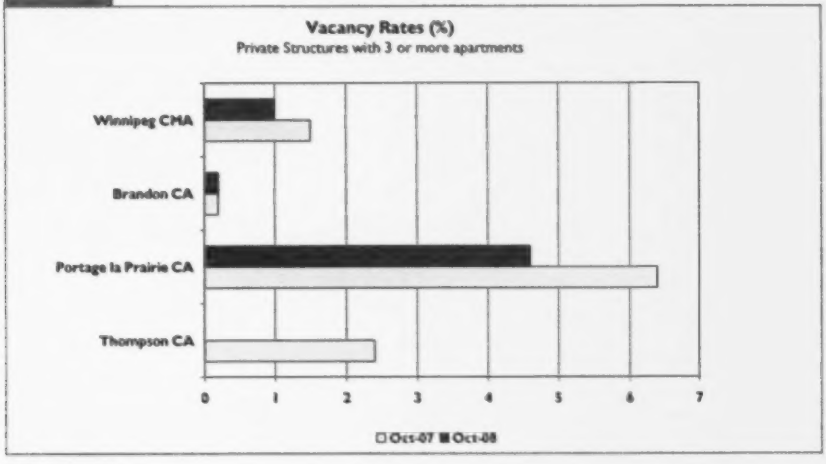
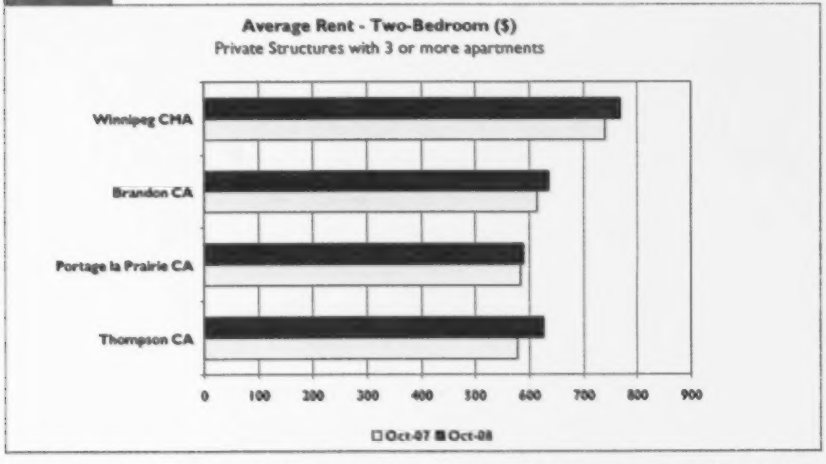


Figure 2



*Only centres with a population of 10,000 + are included in the survey. Detailed reports are available for CMAs.

Highlights

- The average apartment vacancy rate across urban centres in Manitoba dropped from 1.5 per cent in October 2007 to 0.9 per cent in October 2008.
- The October 2008 vacancy rates ranged from 0.0 per cent in Thompson to 4.6 per cent in Portage La Prairie.
- The average monthly rent for two-bedroom units ranged from $589 in Portage La Prairie to $769 in Winnipeg. The provincial average for two-bedroom units stood at $748, up from $721 last October.
- The apartment availability rates ranged from a low of 0.0 per cent in Thompson to a high of 5.3 per cent in Portage La Prairie this October. The provincial average was 1.4 per cent, down from 1.8 per cent last October.

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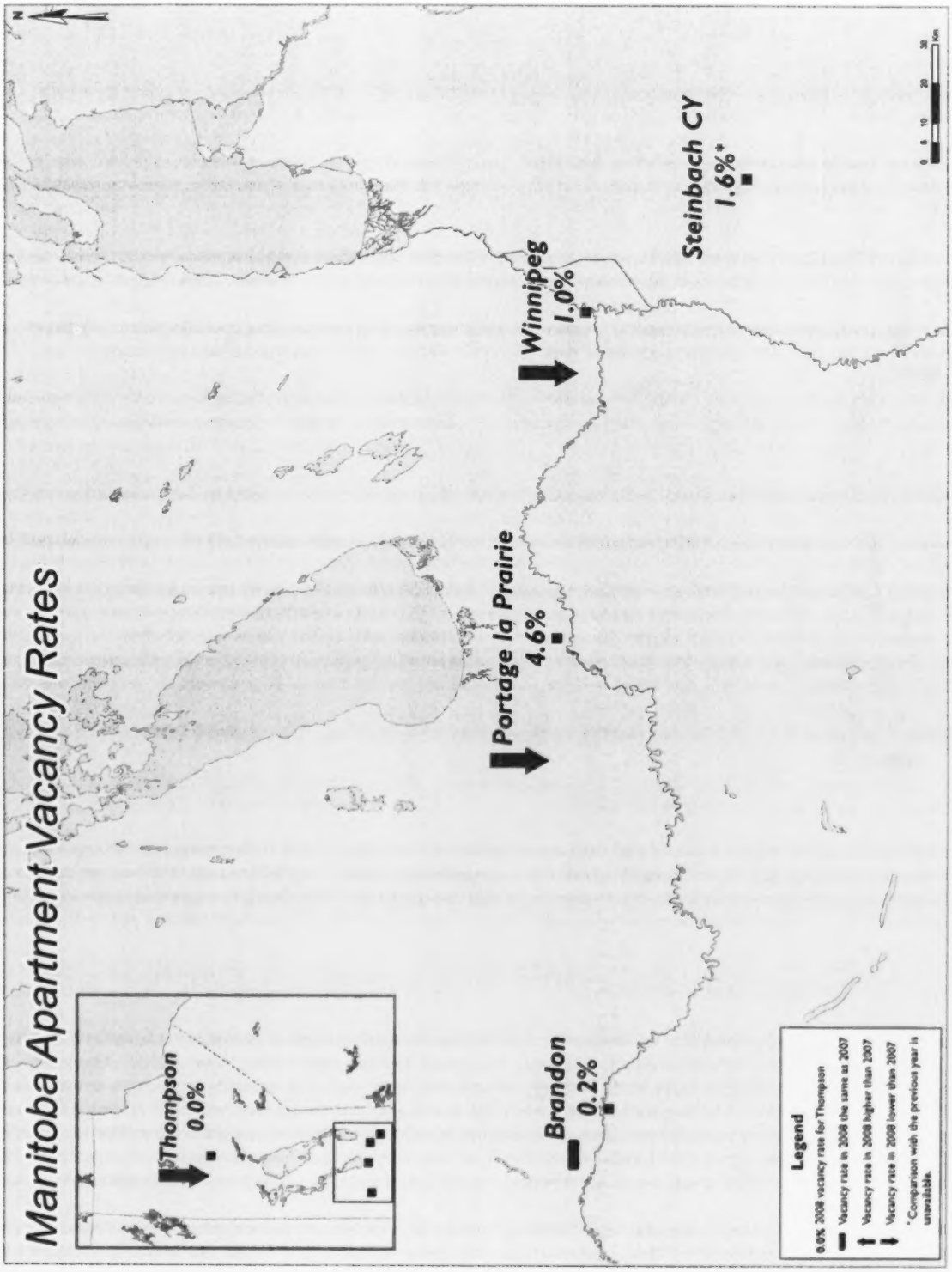
Vacancy Rate in Manitoba Centers Stands at 0.9 Per Cent

According to the results of Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's (CMHC) Fall Rental Market Survey, the vacancy rate across privately-initiated rental apartments in Manitoba`s centres with a population of 10,000 or more averaged 0.9 per cent this October, down from 1.5 per cent a year prior.

In the Winnipeg Census Metropolitan Area (CMA), the apartment vacancy rate fell from 1.5 per cent last October to 1.0 per cent this year. The decline in vacancies in Winnipeg is mainly due to the continued arrival of international migrants and non-permanent residents which increased rental demand, since international newcomers tend to rent before buying a house. In Winnipeg, the average rent for two-bedroom apartments moved from $740 per month last October to $769 per month this October.

Solid economic conditions and the continued influx of migrants also sustained demand for rental housing in Manitoba's smaller urban centres. Thompson had a vacancy rate of 0.0 per cent this October, while Brandon's vacancy rate sat at 0.2 per cent. The vacancy rates were 4.6 per cent and 1.6 per cent for Portage la Prairie and Steinbach, respectively. Across the province, the average rent for a two-bedroom apartment unit reached $748 per month, a $27 rise. In Thompson, the average rent for a two-bedroom unit increased by $48 dollars to $627, while Brandon saw its average rent increase by $21 to $636 per month. Given the high number of vacancies in Portage la Prairie, the average rent for a two-bedroom unit increased by $5 since the October 2007 survey to $589 per month.

CMHC's Rental Market Survey also obtained data on available rental units. A rental unit is considered available if the unit is vacant, or the existing tenant has given or received official notice to move and a new tenant has not signed a lease. The availability rates were 5.3 per cent and 1.6 per cent for Portage la Prairie and Steinbach, respectively. The availability rates sat at 0.0 per cent and 0.4 per cent in Thompson and Brandon, respectively. In Winnipeg, the availability rate was 1.4 per cent.


Manitoba Apartment Vacancy Rates
Thompson
0.0%
Brandon
0.2%
Portage la Prairie
4.6%
Winnipeg
1.0%
Steinbach CY
1.6%*
Legend
0.0% 2008 vacancy rate for Thompson
Vacancy rate in 2008 the same as 2007
Vacancy rate in 2008 higher than 2007
Vacancy rate in 2008 lower than 2007
* Comparison with the previous year is unavailable.

1.1.1 Private Apartment Vacancy Rates (%) by Bedroom Type Manitoba

Centre	Bachelor		1 Bedroom		2 Bedroom		3 Bedroom +		Total	
	Oct-07	Oct-08	Oct-07	Oct-08	Oct-07	Oct-08	Oct-07	Oct-08	Oct-07	Oct-08
Winnipeg CMA	1.8 a	1.9 a	1.4 a	0.8 a	1.5 a	0.9 a	1.6 a	1.2 a	1.5 a	1.0 a
Brandon CA	0.0 b	0.0 b	0.1 a	0.3 a	0.2 a	0.2 a	1.7 a	0.0 a	0.2 a	0.2 a
Hanover RM	n/u	n/u	n/u	n/u	n/u	**	n/u	n/u	n/u	**
Portage la Prairie CA	**	0.0 c	6.3 b	4.1 c	5.6 c	4.4 c	23.9 a	16.3 a	6.4 b	4.6 b
Steinbach CY	n/u	4.5 a	n/u	0.0 a	n/u	2.5 a	n/u	0.0 a	n/u	1.6 a
Thompson CA	8.8 a	0.0 a	4.8 a	0.0 a	0.1 a	0.0 a	0.0 a	0.0 a	2.4 a	0.0 a
Manitoba 10,000+	**1.9 a**	**1.8 a**	**1.5 a**	**0.8 a**	**1.4 a**	**0.9 a**	**1.9 a**	**1.4 a**	**1.5 a**	**0.9 a**

The following letter codes are used to indicate the reliability of the estimates:
a – Excellent, b – Very good, c – Good, d – Fair (Use with Caution)
** Data suppressed to protect confidentiality or data is not statistically reliable
n/u: No units exist in universe for this category **n/s:** No units exist in the sample for this category **n/a:** Not applicable
Please click *Methodology* or *Data Reliability Tables Appendix* links for more details

1.1.2 Private Apartment Average Rents ($) by Bedroom Type Manitoba

Centre	Bachelor		1 Bedroom		2 Bedroom		3 Bedroom +		Total	
	Oct-07	Oct-08	Oct-07	Oct-08	Oct-07	Oct-08	Oct-07	Oct-08	Oct-07	Oct-08
Winnipeg CMA	451 a	464 a	578 a	602 a	740 a	769 a	874 a	920 a	638 a	663 a
Brandon CA	379 b	398 a	488 a	500 a	615 a	636 a	710 a	762 a	571 a	586 a
Hanover RM	n/u	n/u	n/u	n/u	n/u	**	n/u	n/u	n/u	**
Portage la Prairie CA	310 b	294 b	465 a	461 a	584 a	589 a	564 a	583 b	521 a	527 a
Steinbach CY	n/u	336 a	n/u	504 a	n/u	623 a	n/u	701 a	n/u	580 a
Thompson CA	446 a	471 a	510 a	554 a	579 a	627 a	661 a	681 a	547 a	596 a
Manitoba 10,000+	**449 a**	**460 a**	**572 a**	**596 a**	**721 a**	**748 a**	**855 a**	**893 a**	**631 a**	**655 a**

The following letter codes are used to indicate the reliability of the estimates (cv = coefficient of variation):
a – Excellent ($0 \le cv \le 2.5$), b – Very good ($2.5 < cv \le 5$), c – Good ($5 < cv \le 7.5$)
d – Fair (Use with Caution) ($7.5 < cv \le 10$)
** Data suppressed to protect confidentiality or data is not statistically reliable
n/u: No units exist in universe for this category **n/s:** No units exist in the sample for this category **n/a:** Not applicable
Please click *Methodology* or *Data Reliability Tables Appendix* links for more details

1.1.3 Number of Private Apartment Units Vacant and Universe in October 2008 by Bedroom Type Manitoba

Centre	Bachelor		1 Bedroom		2 Bedroom		3 Bedroom +		Total	
	Vacant	Total	Vacant	Total	Vacant	Total	Vacant	Total	Vacant	Total
Winnipeg CMA	72 a	3,819	227 a	26,858	189 a	20,723	12 a	999	501 a	52,399
Brandon CA	0 b	92	3 a	1,001	4 a	1,823	0 a	60	7 a	2,977
Hanover RM	n/u	n/u	n/u	n/u	**	**	n/u	n/u	**	**
Portage la Prairie CA	0 c	26	11 c	258	14 c	315	4 a	25	29 b	624
Steinbach CY	1 a	22	0 a	234	10 a	401	0 a	14	11 a	671
Thompson CA	0 a	55	0 a	654	0 a	855	0 a	27	0 a	1,591
Manitoba 10,000+	**73 a**	**4,014**	**241 a**	**29,004**	**218 a**	**24,122**	**16 a**	**1,126**	**548 a**	**58,266**

The following letter codes are used to indicate the reliability of the estimates:
a – Excellent, b – Very good, c – Good, d – Fair (Use with Caution)
** Data suppressed to protect confidentiality or data is not statistically reliable
n/u: No units exist in universe for this category **n/s:** No units exist in the sample for this category **n/a:** Not applicable
Please click *Methodology* or *Data Reliability Tables Appendix* links for more details

1.1.4 Private Apartment Availability Rates (%) by Bedroom Type Manitoba

Centre	Bachelor		1 Bedroom		2 Bedroom		3 Bedroom +		Total	
	Oct-07	Oct-08	Oct-07	Oct-08	Oct-07	Oct-08	Oct-07	Oct-08	Oct-07	Oct-08
Winnipeg CMA	2.3 a	2.2 a	1.8 a	1.3 a	1.8 a	1.4 a	1.6 a	1.6 b	1.8 a	1.4 a
Brandon CA	0.0 b	1.2 a	0.2 a	0.4 a	0.6 a	0.3 a	1.7 a	1.8 a	0.5 a	0.4 a
Hanover RM	n/u	n/u	n/u	n/u	n/u	**	n/u	n/u	n/u	**
Portage la Prairie CA	**	0.0 a	6.3 b	5.4 c	5.6 c	4.7 a	29.1 a	16.3 a	6.6 b	5.3 b
Steinbach CY	n/u	4.5	n/u	0.0 a	n/u	2.5 a	n/u	0.0 a	n/u	1.6 a
Thompson CA	8.8 a	0.0 a	4.8 a	0.0 a	0.1 a	0.0 a	0.0 a	0.0 a	2.4 a	0.0 a
Manitoba 10,000+	**2.4 a**	**2.2 a**	**1.8 a**	**1.2 a**	**1.7 a**	**1.4 a**	**2.1 a**	**1.9 a**	**1.8 a**	**1.4 a**

The following letter codes are used to indicate the reliability of the estimates:
a – Excellent, b – Very good, c – Good, d – Fair (Use with Caution)
** Data suppressed to protect confidentiality or data is not statistically reliable
n/u: No units exist in universe for this category **n/s:** No units exist in the sample for this category **n/a:** Not applicable
Please click *Methodology* or *Data Reliability Tables Appendix* links for more details

1.1.5 Private Apartment Estimate of Percentage Change (%) of Average Rent[1] by Bedroom Type
Manitoba

Centre	Bachelor		1 Bedroom		2 Bedroom		3 Bedroom +		Total	
	Oct-06 to Oct-07	Oct-07 to Oct-08	Oct-06 to Oct-07	Oct-07 to Oct-08	Oct-06 to Oct-07	Oct-07 to Oct-08	Oct-06 to Oct-07	Oct-07 to Oct-08	Oct-06 to Oct-07	Oct-07 to Oct-08
Winnipeg CMA	4.6 b	4.0 c	4.2 a	3.9 a	4.0 a	3.5 a	5.3 d	3.0 c	4.4 a	4.0 a
Brandon CA	1.9 c	2.4 c	2.4 c	2.8 a	2.9 b	3.7 b	**	4.8 c	2.7 a	3.6 a
Hanover RM	n/u	n/u	n/u	n/u	n/u	n/u	n/u	n/u	n/u	n/u
Portage la Prairie CA	**	**	3.3 a	1.2 d	2.1 a	1.9 a	**	**	3.1 a	1.6 c
Steinbach CY	n/u	n/u	n/u	n/u	n/u	n/u	n/u	n/u	n/u	n/u
Thompson CA	1.3 a	4.2 b	2.3 a	4.9 b	1.9 a	6.1 a	3.4 a	3.4 a	2.2 a	5.5 b
Manitoba 10,000+	**4.4 b**	**4.0 b**	**4.0 a**	**3.9 a**	**3.9 a**	**3.5 a**	**5.2 c**	**3.0 c**	**4.2 a**	**4.0 a**

[1]The Estimate of Percentage Change is a measure of the market movement, and is based on those structures that were common to the survey for both years.

The following letter codes are used to indicate the reliability of the estimates:
a – Excellent, b – Very good, c – Good, d – Fair (Use with Caution)
** Data suppressed to protect confidentiality or data is not statistically reliable
++ change in rent is not statistically significant. This means that the change in rent is not statistically different than zero (0)
n/u: No units exist in universe for this category **n/s:** No units exist in the sample for this category **n/a:** Not applicable

Please click *Methodology* or *Data Reliability Tables Appendix* links for more details

METHODOLOGY FOR RENTAL MARKET SURVEY

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) conducts the **Rental Market Survey** (RMS) every year in April and October to estimate the relative strengths in the rental market. The survey is conducted on a sample basis in all urban areas with populations of 10,000 and more. The survey targets only privately initiated structures with at least three rental units, which have been on the market for at least three months. The survey collects market rent, available and vacant unit data from sampled structures. Most RMS data contained in this publication refer to privately initiated apartment structures.

The survey is conducted by a combination of telephone interviews and site visits, and information is obtained from the owner, manager, or building superintendent. The survey is conducted during the first two weeks of April/October, and the results reflect market conditions at that time.

CMHC's Rental Market Survey provides a snapshot of vacancy and availability rates, and average rents in both new and existing structures. In October 2006, CMHC has introduced a new measure for the change in rent that is calculated based on existing structures only. This estimate is based on structures that were common to the survey sample the previous year and the current year of the Rental Market Survey. The change in rent in existing structures is an estimate of the change in rent that the landlords charge and removes compositional effects on the rent level movement due to new buildings, conversions, and survey sample rotation. The estimate of per cent change in rent is available in the Rental Market Report – Canada Highlights , Provincial Highlights, and the local Rental Market Reports. The rent levels in new and existing structures are also published. While the per cent change in rents in existing structures published in the reports are statistically significant, changes in rents that one might calculate based on rent levels in new and existing structures may or may not be statistically significant.

METHODOLOGY FOR SECONDARY RENTAL MARKET SURVEY

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) conducts a survey of the **Secondary Rental Market** (SRMS) in September and October to estimate the relative strengths in the secondary rental market which is defined as those dwellings not covered by the regular RMS. CMHC has identified the following dwelling components to be included in SRMS:

- Rented single-detached houses.
- Rented double (semi-detached) houses (i.e.. Two units of approximate equal size and under one roof that are situated either side-by-side or front-to-back).
- Rented freehold row/town homes.
- Rented duplex apartments (i.e.. one-above-other).
- Rented accessory apartments (separate dwelling units that are located within the structure of another dwelling type).
- Rented condominiums (can be any dwelling type but are primarily apartments).
- One or two apartments which are part of a commercial or other type of structure.

The SRMS has three components which are conducted in selected CMAs:

- A Household Rent Survey of all households to collect information about rents.
- A Condominium Apartment Rent Survey of households living in condominium apartments to collect information about rents.
- A Condominium Apartment Vacancy Survey of condominium apartment owners to collect vacancy information.

All three surveys are conducted by telephone interviews. For the condominium apartment vacancy survey, information is obtained from the owner, manager, or building superintendent and can be supplemented by site visits if no telephone contact is made. For the other two surveys, information is collected from an adult living in the household. All surveys are conducted in September and October, and the results reflect market conditions at that time.

CMHC publishes the number of units rented and vacancy rates for the condominium vacancy survey. For the condominium rent and household rent surveys, the average rent is published. A letter code representing the statistical reliability (i.e., the coefficient of variation (CV)) for each estimate is provided to indicate the data reliability. In 2008, rented condominium apartments were surveyed in the following CMAs: Vancouver, Victoria, Calgary, Edmonton, Regina, Saskatoon, Toronto, Ottawa, Montréal and Québec (NOTE: condo rent data was not collected for Regina and Saskatoon). Other secondary rental market units were surveyed in Abbotsford, Barrie, Calgary, Edmonton, Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Quebec, St. John's, Toronto, Regina, Saskatoon, Kelowna, Vancouver and Victoria.

DEFINITIONS

Availability: A rental unit is considered available if the existing tenant has given, or has received, notice to move, and a new tenant has not signed a lease; or the unit is vacant (see definition of vacancy below).

Rent: The rent refers to the actual amount tenants pay for their unit. No adjustments are made for the inclusion or exclusion of amenities and services such as heat, hydro, parking, and hot water. For available and vacant units, the rent is the amount the owner is asking for the unit.

It should be noted that the average rents reported in this publication provide a sound indication of the amounts paid by unit size and geographical sector. Utilities such as heating, electricity and hot water may or may not be included in the rent.

Rental Apartment Structure: Any building containing three or more rental units, of which at least one unit is not ground oriented. Owner-occupied units are not included in the rental building unit count.

Rental Row (Townhouse) Structure: Any building containing three or more rental units, all of which are ground oriented with vertical divisions. Owner-occupied units are not included in the rental building unit count. These row units in some centres are commonly referred to as townhouses.

Vacancy: A unit is considered vacant if, at the time of the survey, it is physically unoccupied and available for immediate rental.

Definitions of Census Areas referred to in this publication are as follows:

A census metropolitan area (CMA) or a census agglomeration (CA) is formed by one or more adjacent municipalities centred on a large urban area (known as the urban core). The census population count of the urban core is at least 10,000 to form a census agglomeration and at least 100,000 to form a census metropolitan area. To be included in the CMA or CA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census place of work data. CMAs and CAs contain whole municipalities or Census Subdivisions.

All data presented in this publication is based on Statistics Canada's 2001 and 2006 Census area definitions.

Acknowledgement

The Rental Market Survey and the Secondary Rental Market Survey could not have been conducted without the cooperation of the rental property owners, managers, building superintendents and household members throughout Canada. CMHC acknowledges their hard work and assistance in providing timely and accurate information. As a result of their contribution, CMHC is able to provide information that benefits the entire housing industry.

Rental Affordability Indicator

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation has developed a new rental affordability indicator to gauge how affordable a rental market is for those households which rent within that market. The level of income required for a household to rent a median priced two-bedroom apartment, using 30 per cent of its income, is calculated. The three-year moving average of median income of households in a centre is then divided by this required income. The resulting number is then multiplied by 100 to form the indicator. A value above 100 indicates that less than 30 per cent of the median income is required to rent a two-bedroom apartment, conversely, a value below 100 indicates that more than 30 per cent of the median income is required to rent the same unit. In general, as the indicator increases, the market becomes more affordable; as the indicator declines, the market becomes less affordable.

Median renter household income estimates used in the calculation of the rental affordability indicator are based on results of Statistics Canada's Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics. Results for this survey are available from 1994 to 2005. CMHC has developed forecasts of median renter household income for 2006, 2007 and 2008.

CMHC—HOME TO CANADIANS

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Together with other housing stakeholders, we help ensure that the Canadian housing system remains one of the best in the world. We are committed to helping Canadians access a wide choice of quality, environmentally sustainable and affordable homes – homes that will continue to create vibrant and healthy communities and cities across the country.

For more information, visit our website at www.cmhc.ca

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- Residential Construction Digest, Prairie Centres
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